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Skegness Urban District Council

Annual Report


of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1956



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SKEGNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1956

To the Chairman and Members of the Skegness Urban District Council.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Twenty-Second Annual Report.

Statistics.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	4,411.788
Number of inhabited houses 1956	...	...	...	...	4,084
Rateable Value, 31st December, 1956	...	...	...	...	£284,915
Product of a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£1,128
Population Est. Mid Year 1956	...	...	...	...	12,630

Extracts from Vital Statistics during the Year.

	Total		Males		Females
Births	208	...	125	...	83
Deaths	172	...	72	...	100
Birth Rate	16.4	...	Death Rate	13.6	
Number of Women dying in consequence of childbirth			from Sepsis	...	Nil
			from other causes		1
Deaths of infants under one year of age		...		...	4
Infant Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	19.2
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	30
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Diarrhoeæ (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year. The figures are:—

		Total cases notified.		Cases admitted to Hospital.		Total Deaths.
Dysentery	... ..	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil
Scarlet Fever	... ..	2	...	Nil	...	Nil
Diphtheria	... ..	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil
Erysipelas	... ..	2	...	Nil	...	Nil
Pneumonia	... ..	1	...	Nil	...	Nil
Measles	... ..	118	...	Nil	...	Nil
Cerebro-Spinal-Fever		Nil	..	Nil	...	Nil
Malaria	... ..	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil
Poliomyelitis	... ..	1	...	1	...	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	... ..	1	...	1	...	Nil
Whooping Cough	... ..	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil
Meningitis	... ..	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil
		<hr/> 125 <hr/>	...	<hr/> 2 <hr/>	...	<hr/> Nil <hr/>

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

There were no cases notified during the year.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Medical Officer of Health: Dr. D. Fraser Menzies, M.B., Ch.B. (St. And.).

Sanitary Inspector : S. James, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.Inst.P.C.

Additional Sanitary Inspector : G. W. Robinson, C.R.S.I.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

Arrangements are made to send infectious cases to the Isolation Hospitals at Boston, Lincoln or Grimsby.

The Regional Hospital Board has arranged for the regular attendance at Skegness and District Hospital for out-patient clinics, of a Physician, Surgeon, Orthopædic Surgeon, Gynecologist, Cadeologist, Paediatrician and Radiologist. An Ophthalmologist attends at the Clinic, Cecil Avenue, on 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. There is also a department for Physiotherapy. In some cases these visits are not frequent enough, with the result that cases are sent away to other hospitals which should, and could, be treated in the local hospital.

The accommodation of the aged people who are sick or infirm, and require some nursing care, is becoming an ever increasing problem. Although there are a few nursing homes in the area for the purpose the fees are beyond the means of most aged persons. I trust the County Council will endeavour to solve this problem in the near future.

Immunisation.

It is important that young children should be immunised and vaccinated. I am afraid many parents are becoming careless in this respect, and there is therefore a falling off in the number of children who are given the protection against disease to which they are entitled.

Venereal Diseases.

There is a local centre for the treatment of venereal diseases and sessions are held each week on Thursday evenings.

Tuberculosis.

The County Council provide for the treatment of tuberculosis. A clinic for this purpose is established at Skegness, and sessions are held each Tuesday afternoon. An arrangement, whereby cases of suspected tuberculosis can be X-Rayed at Skegness Hospital has proved most convenient and beneficial to the residents of Skegness.

GENERAL HEALTH.

There is nothing outstanding to report as the general health of the town has been most satisfactory.

DAY NURSERY.

The Nursery was open during the summer months and accommodated children from one to five years of age. The nursery is now carried on by Councillor Mrs. E. Barratt in a voluntary capacity and in her very capable hands is very successful. I think Mrs. Barratt's efforts in this direction are to be highly commended.

Scavenging.

The removal and disposal of house and trade refuse and the cleansing of earth closets, privies and cesspools in the area is carried out by the Council, and is under the direct supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Salvage work requires constant thought and attention, and excellent results were obtained during the year from this source.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

A classified statement of the number of premises visited, the defects or nuisances discovered, and the action, or result of action taken in regard to these will be found in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Schools.

The sanitary conditions and water supply at the public elementary schools are good.

The County School Medical Officer regularly inspects the Schools and the children. Any treatment required can be obtained through the medical practitioners in the town and through the various schemes provided by the Education Committee.

Shops Act.

Inspections are made from time to time and the action taken will be found in the tabulated report.

Housing.

Your Council has made extremely good progress with the building of new houses, including bungalows for aged persons. It seems, however, that the number of applicants for new houses still keeps at a high level, so creating a problem which can become permanent unless other solutions to a housing problem can be found.

District Nurses.

There are once again two District Nurses in Skegness. Their work is most efficient and the care and comfort derived by patients from these nurses is considerable.

Report on Housing Acts Inspections.

The number of inspections made and the action taken will be found in the tabulated report.

Water Supply.

A plentiful supply of wholesome water is obtained from the Candlesby and Welton boreholes.

On analysis this water is found to be of excellent quality and purity. A copy report is appended.

Laboratory Report No. L56/12174.

BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER REPORT.

The sample of water marked, Tap on Main Supply, Town Hall, Skegness, collected on 25.6.56, has been examined, and with the following results :—

Agar plate count, at 37°C, for two days ... = 0 per 100 ml.
Faecal coli ... not found in 100 ml.
Probable number of coliform bacilli ... none per 100 ml.

REMARKS : CLASS I (highly satisfactory).

(Signed) J. M. CROLL,

M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,

Laboratory Director.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	1	6	12	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	79	149	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority † (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	2	2	—	—
Total ..	6	87	163	—	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found			
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)		2	2		
Overcrowding (S.2)		—	—		
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)		—	—		
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)		—	—		
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)		—	—		
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient		—	—	—	
(b) Unsuitable or defective		2	2	—	
(c) Not separate for sexes		—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)		—	—	—	—
Total ..		2	2	—	—

Meat and Food.

The area served by the abattoir is the Urban Area, the Urban Areas of Alford, Mablethorpe and Sutton and parts of the Spilsby Rural District.

Visits are made by your Council's Meat Inspectors during hours of slaughter, and a detailed report of the number of animals killed and the action taken with respect to the number of animals inspected and the meat condemned as unfit for human consumption will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

Shops and other premises where food is prepared or deposited for the purpose of sale have been regularly inspected and are, on the whole, very well kept.

Milk Supply.

I consider the milk supply in this town is excellent. With the exception of approximately fifty gallons per day, all the milk sold is Heat Treated or Tuberculin Tested.

The following licences were granted during the year:—

Sterilised Milk	...	...	...	...	13
Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	...	8
Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	...	...	5

Ice Cream.

Thirty-one samples of ice cream were sent to the Analyst, who reports on the samples as follows:—

Grade I — 22	...	Grade II — 2
Grade III — Nil	...	Grade IV — Nil

Regular visits are made to premises where ice cream is manufactured or sold by retail, and help and advice given where necessary.

Bakehouses.

There are no underground bakehouses in the area. All the bakehouses are of a good type, clean and well kept, and give little or no cause for complaint.

Sale of Food and Drugs.

This work is carried out by the County Council.

Swimming Pools.

Copy of Analysis, Skegness Bathing Pool :—

BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER REPORT.

24.8.56.

Plate Count Yeastrel Agar 2 days 37° Aerobically 0 per ml.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days—

37°C 0 per 100 ml.

Probable number of faecal coli ... 0 per 100 ml.

This water is very satisfactory for bathing purposes.

Factories.

The work carried on is chiefly dressmaking and millinery, joinery, motor and cycle repairs, photography, upholstery and electrical materials.

On the whole these places are well kept. It is only on occasions that it is necessary to take any action with regard to them.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. FRASER MENZIES, M.B., Ch.B. (St. And.).
Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary Administration :

Report of work done by Public Health Inspector for the year 1956.

HOUSING

Total No. of New Houses Erected during the Year ...	
(I.) By the Local Authority	32
(II.) By other Local Authorities	Nil
(III.) By other bodies or persons	23

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

(i) No. of houses scheduled for demolition but retained by formal action under Secs. 2, 3, 4 or 6	Nil
(ii) No. of certificates of disrepair issued	Nil

Inspection of Dwelling Houses During the Year.

(I.) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	306
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	672

Remedy of Defects During the Year without Service of Formal Notices.

No. of Defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	144
---	-----

Action Under Statutory Powers During the Year.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9 and 10 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	2
(2) No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners	1
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	1

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—		
(1)	No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	5
(2)	No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	by owners	Nil
(b)	by Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—		
(1)	No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(2)	No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
(3)	No. of dwelling-houses subject to undertakings or Closing Orders	Nil
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—		
(1)	No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2)	No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or rooms having been rendered fit	Nil
(e) Proceedings under Sections 25 and 26:—		
(1)	No. of Clearance Orders made	Nil
(2)	No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance thereof	Nil

Housing Act, 1949.

No. of houses for which applications for grants have been received	8
No. of houses subject to grant	6
No. of houses owned by local authority which have been the subject of grant aid by the Ministry ...	Nil

Movable Dwellings, Tents, Vans, etc.—

No. of site licences	...	...	...	...	...	17
No. of individual licences	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Total number of caravans permitted under licences						1,200
No. of inspections during year—	Sites	...	...	...	...	64
	Dwellings	.				Nil
No. of contraventions remedied	...	...	...	...	...	5

FOOD PREMISES.**Bakehouses—**

No. in district	...	...	...	...	...	9
No. of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	37
No. of contraventions	...	...	...	...	...	4
Defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	4

Milk Supplies—

No. of distributors on register—

Sterilised	...	...	...	...	...	13
Past.	...	...	...	...	...	8
T.T.	...	...	...	...	...	5
N/D	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

No. of samples of milk taken in course of delivery
(other than biological)—

Sterilised	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Past.	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
T.T.	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
N/D	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

No. of samples satisfactory—

Sterilised	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Past.	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
T.T.	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
N/D	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

No. of inspections of dairy premises

No. of contraventions remedied

Ice Cream—

No. of manufacturers on register	...	...	...	...	...	9
No. of premises licensed for sale of Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	138
No. of inspections of premises made	...	...	...	...	...	87
No. of Contraventions found	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
No. of Contraventions remedied	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
No. of samples taken	...	...	Grade I	...	...	21
			Grade II	...	...	2
			Grade III	...	...	Nil
			Grade IV	...	...	Nil

Meat Products—

No. of premises registered for manufacture of meat products	17
No. of inspections made	50
No. of Contraventions found	2
No. of Contraventions remedied	2

Other Food Premises—

No. of inspections	118
No. of Contraventions found	6
No. of Contraventions remedied	6

Slaughterhouses—

No. licensed—Abattoir type	Nil
Private (individual)	Nil
No. operated by local authority	1

Unsound Food.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in whole or part.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ..	1102	160	11	3009	4157
Number inspected	1102	160	11	3009	4157
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci					
Whole carcases condemned	6	2	3	5	17
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	87	21	1	25	162
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci ..	8.4	14.3	35.4	.99	4.3
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned	1	1	—	—	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	39	13	—	—	21
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	3.6	8.7	—	—	.57
Cysticerosis					
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigera- tion	2	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

Other Foods Condemned

217 Bricks Ice Cream	15 Stone Plaice
860 Tinned Foods	2 Cooked Gammons.
345 lbs. Chilled Beef	3 lbs. 6ozs. Black Pudding
12 Bath Chaps	18 Polonies
2 Cases Frozen Vegetables	24 lbs. Pork Sausage
30 lbs. Liver	36 lbs. Beef Sausage
8½ lbs. Pressed Pork	6 Boxes Peaches

Method of Disposal of Condemned Food—

Meat—Disposed of to Contractors.

Other Foods—By fire or burial after chemical treatment.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Closets—

No. of houses with privy vaults in district ...	Nil
No. of houses with pail closets in district ...	18
No. of houses with water-closets in district ...	4,447
No. of water closets substituted for pail closets and privy vaults	Nil

Cesspools and Septic Tanks—

No. of Cesspools and septic tanks emptied, cleansed, etc.	33 emptied weekly, 4 periodically
No. of Cesspools and septic tanks abolished ...	Nil

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal—

Details of areas or villages where provision has been made of new sewers or where existing sewerage arrangements improved.

Details of areas or villages where provision has been made or new sewage disposal facilities or existing arrangements improved.

Any part of district urgently requiring public sewers and/or treatment works for public health reasons (state briefly reasons).

Western end of
Burgh Road to
deal with
approx. 30
houses which
have cesspools
and several
more bunga-
lows in course
of erection.

WATER SUPPLIES

Domestic—

No. of houses supplied from public mains—	
In house	100%
Standpipe/tap	Nil
No. of houses supplied from private sources—	
In house	Nil
Not in house	Nil

New sources of supply and location—									
Public	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
No. of new sources of supply and location—									
Private	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
No. of houses supplied therefrom	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
No. of public supplies closed as—									
(i) Polluted	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(ii) Other reasons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Any part requiring a public supply or the replacement of a public supply for public health reasons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	No
No. of samples taken for chemical examination—									
From public supplies—									
Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
From private supplies—									
Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
No. of samples taken for bacteriological examination :—									
From public supplies—									
Cl. I	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Cl. II	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Cl. III	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
Cl. IV	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
From private supplies—									
Cl. I	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Cl. II	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Cl. III	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Cl. IV	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Swimming Pools—									
No. of public swimming pools in operation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
No. fitted with continuous mechanical filtration and chlorination	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
No. of samples of swimming pool water taken for chemical examination	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(a) Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Not satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
No. of samples of swimming pool water taken for bacteriological examination—									
(a) Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
(b) Not satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

GENERAL.

Offensive Trades—

No. of premises in district	...	...	...	...	Nil
No. of Inspections	...	...	...	...	Nil
Contraventions remedied	...	...	...	..	Nil

Knackers Yards--

No. Licensed	...	...	...	...	Nil
No. of Inspections	..	...	..	...	Nil
Defects Remedied	...	...	...	...	Nil

Shops Act, 1950—

Number of shops inspected	...	...	...	..	77
Contraventions remedied	...	...	...	..	4

Disinfection and Disinfestation—

Rooms or premises disinfected :					
(a) Infectious disease other than tuberculosis					12
(b) Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	4
No. of premises subject to disinfestation	...	...			11

Refuse Collection and Disposal—

No. of premises from which refuse is collected	...				4,700
Frequency of collection	...	...	...	...	Weekly— in winter Twice weekly— in summer
Method of disposal	...	...	...	...	Controlled Tip
Is this satisfactory ?	...	...	...	...	Yes
Is collection by Local Authority or contract	...				By Local Authority

Nuisances—

Total Number of Nuisances during year :					
(1) Abated as result of informal action by Public Health Inspector	...	...	...		27
(2) Reported to Council, Statutory notice issued	...	...	...	..	1
Statutory notice not issued	...			..	Nil

Details of Nuisances abated—

	After Informal intimation	After Statutory Notice
Refuse	7	Nil
Foul ditches, ponds and stagnant water	1	1
Drainage	5	Nil
Poultry and Animals	3	1
Dangerous Premises	Nil	Nil
Miscellaneous Nuisances	11	Nil

Rats and Mice Destruction—

No. of rodent operatives employed	1
No. of Premises treated :	
(a) Dwelling houses	578
(b) Other Premises	252
Are there any serious reservoirs of rats in district?	No

Atmospheric Pollution—

No. of visits	6
No. of nuisances found	6
No. of nuisances abated	5

